



UNIVERSITY OF
DETROIT MERCY
SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

COMMENCEMENT

———— 2023 ————



WELCOME

UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY
SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

COMMENCEMENT 2023

Friday, May 12
9:30 a.m.

Calihan Hall
University of Detroit Mercy
4001 West McNichols Road
Detroit, Michigan

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

BAGPIPER

MACE BEARER

GRAND MARSHAL

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN
DENTAL HYGIENE

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF DENTAL
SURGERY

CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATE IN ADVANCED EDUCATION IN
GENERAL DENTISTRY

CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATE IN ENDODONTICS

CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATE IN ORTHODONTICS

CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATE IN PERIODONTICS

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE

FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATORS OF THE SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

DEANS OF THE UNIVERSITY

VICE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT OF THE MICHIGAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT OF THE MICHIGAN DENTAL HYGIENISTS'
ASSOCIATION

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS OF THE
UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

Photographers are requested to use side aisles and the rear of the auditorium during the ceremony so as not to obstruct the view of graduates and guests. Lost items can be claimed at the guard booth or by calling (313) 993-1234.

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

PROCESSIONAL

WELCOME

John Palanci, D.D.S.
Grand Marshal, Associate Professor

INVOCATION

Bernie Owens, S.J.
Sacramental Minister, University Ministry

O CANADA

Barbara Purifoy-Seldon, R.D.H., B.S., M.A.
Retired, Associate Professor

*O Canada! Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all of us command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The True North strong and free!
From far and wide,
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.*

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

Samica Gordon
Dental Class of 2025

*Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

DEAN'S REMARKS

Mert N. Aksu, D.D.S., J.D., M.H.S.A.
Dean and Professor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Donald B. Taylor, Ph.D.
President of the University

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Barbara Purifoy-Seldon, R.D.H., B.S., M.A.
Retired, Associate Professor

DENTAL HYGIENE CLASS ADDRESS

Sidnee Morgan Mattison, B.S.
President, Dental Hygiene Class of 2023

DENTAL CLASS ADDRESS

Hayden William Sutton, B.S.
President, Dental Class of 2023

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES

Mert N. Aksu, D.D.S., J.D., M.H.S.A.

CONFERRING OF CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES

Donald B. Taylor, Ph.D.

PRESENTATION OF VIVERE EX MISSIONE AWARD

Donald B. Taylor, Ph.D.

DENTAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Dinka, D.D.S.
Immediate Past President

RECESSIONAL

Please remain seated until the graduates and academic procession leave Calihan Hall.

RECEPTION

Sacred-Heart Square
University of Detroit Mercy

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Barbara Purifoy-Seldon, R.D.H., B.S., M.A. '68, '70, '73
Retired, Associate Professor



Barbara Purifoy-Seldon is a renowned academic and community leader who has dedicated her life to service and advocacy. Her extraordinary journey began in Detroit, where she graduated from Cass Technical High School in 1961 before serving honorably in the United States Army until 1964. She later became the first black alumna of the dental hygiene program at the University of Detroit.

Seldon remained committed to the University, and her outstanding contributions culminated in her rising to become a tenured Associate Professor, Assistant to the Dean for Special Projects, and the Director of Minority Recruitment in the Division of Dental Hygiene. Her emphasis on diversity led to the development of the University's diversity philosophy, enabling her to provide diversity training to faculty, staff, and students.

Seldon's influence extended beyond the classroom, where she played a key role in establishing various student associations while earning multiple UDM faculty excellence awards. Seldon is highly regarded in the field of dentistry, having held various leadership positions in professional dental organizations. She has also been appointed by two former Michigan governors to prestigious positions on the Michigan State Board of Dentistry and the Northeast Regional Board of Dental Examiners.

She is dedicated to promoting diversity, inclusion and peace and is an advocate for various community initiatives, including having served as a multi-term President of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force, Inc. As an active peacemaker, Seldon represented the MLK Task Force, Inc. and the United Nations in Ixtapa Zihuatanejo, Guerrero, Mexico. Her exceptional efforts have led to the creation of a traveling exhibition called "Pathways to Freedom" which chronicles the experiences of slaves who traveled to Mexico for their independence. This innovative project contributed significantly to the inclusion of Afro-Mexicans on the country's census in 2020.

Despite her busy schedule, Seldon demonstrates her unwavering commitment to education and diversity and finds time to inspire future generations, regularly visiting middle and high schools in the Detroit area to promote careers in dentistry. As a proud alumna, Seldon uses her community involvement to bridge relationships and has become one of the most ardent supporters of her alma mater. From the classroom to the wider community, Seldon's enthusiastic spirit continues to inspire those around her.

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN DENTAL HYGIENE

Zeinab H. Ahmad
Ather Munir Al Murisi
Areeg Al Najati
Nour Almachy
Nours Al-Jeezani
Sarah Al-Shaikhli
Marla Elizabeth Buzzeo
Mona Chahrour
Lexine Marie Gabrail
Maja Gjurchinoska
Kadra Hamad
Haile L Hovarter
Amanda Elizabeth Hureski
Seba Koujan

Morgan E. Kyle, B.S.
Morgan Lee LaForest
Madelyn Paige Lee
Sidnee Morgan Mattison, B.S.
Malak Merhi
Zainab Nabil Saad
Alaa Sassi
Leah T. Stevens
Youssef M. Takkush
Divya Janak Ukani, B.S., B.D.S.
Cody E. Wall
Ciara Alexandria Young, B.A., B.S.
Rachel Marilyn Zager

Candidates for degrees to be granted upon completion of formal requirements.

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF DENTAL SURGERY

Amelia E. Abdal, B.S.
 Abdullatif G. Abdulghani, B.S.
 Zarina S. Akhmedova, B.S., M.S.
 **Rayan M. Al Edreesi, B.D.S., M.P.H., D.D.S.
 **Maria Ibrahim Al Ismail, B.D.S., M.S., D.Sc.D.
 Alin Alias, B.S.
 Samer Al-Ismaeel, B.S.
 Ibrahim Ahmad Al-Jerdi, B.S.
 Zainab Qays Al-Kushaly, B.S.
 Carly Bachus, B.Sc.
 Souheil Fawaz Baltaji, B.S.
 Ana Luz Barajas-Preciado, B.S.
 Laila Basha, B.S.
 Rita Joseph Benjamin, B.S.
 Colin T. Brannagan, B.S.
 Margaret Brockmeyer-Bernard, B.S.
 Leila Susan Burbar, B.S.
 **Karoline Santana Burch, B.S., M.S.D., D.D.S.
 MacKenzie JoAnne Burns, B.S.
 Stephanie W. Chan, B.S.
 Ahyoung Cho, B.S.
 Yahya Choudhry, B.S.
 Rene Miguel Consuegra-Diaz, B.S.
 Kelly I. Crossley, B.S.
 Kouder I. Dakhllallah, B.S.
 Oliver M. Daniel, B.A.
 Melinda Talal Dickow, B.S.
 Kexin Ding, B.A., M.S.
 Timothy Dinh, B.S.
 Jenna Suzanna Dinka, B.S.
 Nupur P. Dixit, B.S.
 Omar Dlewati, B.S.
 Maura Erin Shea Easton, B.S.
 Adam Mustapha Elturk, B.S.
 Yasmina Farah, B.S.
 Michael M. Fouad Meshriky, B.S.
 Brooke A. Fox, B.S.
 Michael Christian Fuhst, B.S.
 Sarah Gafencu, B.A.
 Ana T. Garcia, B.S.
 Charandeep Singh Ghotra, B.S.
 Nicholas J. Goza, B.S.
 Andrew E. Grigg, B.A.
 Nasim Hadiashar, B.S., M.S.
 Jack Varga Hadwin, H.B.Sc.
 Sondos Amin Hajar, B.S.
 Fadia Sabah Hanna, B.S.
 Dayana Hassoun, B.Sc., B.H.K.
 Emily M. Heatwole, B.S.
 Sandra Salama Mossaad Henein, B.S.
 Su Jin Heo, B.S.
 Trey Anthony Hester, B.S.
 Michael E. Highers, B.S.
 Mark Brent Hosea, B.S.
 Emmaline Constance Hrebec, B.S.
 Kellie Marilynn Hurst, B.S.
 Mary F. Jaddou, B.S.
 Taylor A. Johnson, B.S.
 Abigail Nicole Johnstone, B.S.
 +Arassa Joseph, B.S.
 Anjali M. Joshi, B.S.
 Nisha M. Joshi, B.S.
 Nicole Junn, B.S.
 Ahmed A. Kaakarli
 Manasa Lakshmi Kanneganti, B.S.
 Brandon Khaddor, B.S.
 Natalia Khalil, B.S.
 Thomas Mark Khemmoro
 Lynn Kholoki, B.S.
 Fariba Kianmajd, B.S.
 Doohyun Kim, B.S.
 Brock Krygier, B.S., M.D.S
 Thi Trong Le, B.S.
 Jakob D. Lee, B.S.
 Jacob Dante Lupini, B.S.
 Matthew Alex Lupsan, B.S.
 Daniel Macias, B.S.
 Mollie Mahoney, B.S., M.S.
 Ezzat Makawi, B.S.
 Bhakti A. Malavia, B.S.

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF DENTAL SURGERY

Amatullah Mamajiwala, B.S.
 Ajith Rengarajan Manipala, B.S.
 Nikta Mansouri, B.Sc.
 Nicole Markic, B.Sc.
 Kyle Nicholas Mayer, B.S.
 Antonio Collins McFadden, B.S.
 Emily Liseth Mejia, B.S., M.S.
 Iveth M. Melgarejo, B.S.
 Kevin A. Mendez, B.S.
 Daniel Middleton, B.S.
 Yekta Mohammadzadeh, B.S.
 Medea Mohseni, B.S.
 Austin A. Morgan, B.S.
 Dylan Morrow, B.S.
 Thomas Joseph Mullally, B.A.
 Minahel Munir, B.S.
 Justin J. Nafso, B.S.
 Jimmy P. Nguyen, B.S.
 Tri Minh Nguyen, B.A.
 Mohammed A. Obeid, B.S.
 Jessica YunHye Oh, B.S.
 Ian A. Pagel, B.S.
 Olga Christine Panagos, B.S.
 Jay Bhagavandas Patel, B.S.
 Kwisha Sharadkumar Patel, B.S.
 Manali Diviesh Patel, B.S.
 Shivam Rajul Patel, B.S.
 Alice Piatkowski, B.S.
 Nicole M. Piening, B.S.
 **Krunal Mahendrakumar Punjabi, B.D.S., M.S.,
 D.D.S.
 Sandra V. Qaji, B.S.
 Andy Raban, B.S.
 Kainaat Rana, B.S.Ed.
 Ashar Rasheed, H.B.Sc.
 Zoha Rehman, B.S.
 Nicole A. Reilly, B.S.
 Diana Saffarini, B.S.
 Farah B. Safieddine, B.S.
 Heba Saleh, H.B.Sc.
 Anelis Sanchez-Mederos, B.S.D.H.
 Manveer Sandhawalia, B.Sc.N.
 Sasha Sarin, B.S.
 Ila Sayed, B.S.
 Andrew Schweitzer, B.S.
 Amber Nicole Sharpley, B.S.D.H.
 Mohammed Fawwad Siddiqui, B.S.
 Simran P. Singh, B.S.
 Meera A. Sobh, B.S.
 Zitong Song, B.S.
 Sydney A. Suchey, B.S.
 **Muad Mohamed A. Suleiman, B.D.S.
 Hayden William Sutton, B.S.
 Oliver Thomas Swensen, B.S.
 Hamzah Syed, B.S.
 Madison C. Thomas, B.S.
 Tyler Davis Townsend, B.S.
 Anh Trinh, B.S.
 Hang T. Trinh, B.S.
 Muhammad Talha Usmani, B.S.
 Alicia Jade Van Drunen, B.S.
 Faith Elizabeth Volpe, B.S.
 Christian A. Watson, B.S.
 Madelyn West, B.S.
 Sun Ho Won, B.S.
 Nancy Xiaonan Xu, B.H.Sc.
 Wei Xu, B.S.
 Lauren T. Yaldo
 Junhong Yang, B.S.
 Michelle M. Zuleta, B.S.

+Candidates receiving a Certificate in Business Fundamentals

**Candidates receiving a Doctor of Dental Surgery after May 2023

Candidates for degrees to be granted up on completion of formal requirements.

CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATE IN ADVANCED EDUCATION IN GENERAL DENTISTRY

Chelsea Anthony, B.A., D.D.S.
Maria Magadalyn Athnasios, B.S., D.D.S.
Jannah Aminah Cummings, D.D.S.
+Gregory Luke Gudziak, D.D.S.
Katelyn Elizabeth Kosileski, B.S., D.D.S.

Program Director – Christina VanDam, D.D.S.

CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATE IN ENDODONTICS AND THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE

Leslie M. Afable, B.S., M.S., D.D.S.
Daniel H. Nho, B.A., M.S., D.M.D.
Christopher Michael Smith, B.A., M.S., D.M.D.

Program Director – Susan Paurazas, D.D.S., M.H.S.A., M.S.

CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATE IN ORTHODONTICS AND THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE

Nicholas E. Ancona, B.S., D.D.S.
Casey B. Brewer, D.M.D.
Hannah Christine Collison, B.S., D.D.S.
Courtney Anne Martusiewicz, D.D.S.
Elaine Lynn Simpson, D.M.D.

Program Director – Riyadh Al-Qawasmi, B.D.S., M.S.D., Ph.D.

CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATE IN PERIODONTICS AND THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE

Roksolana Gala, B.D.S.
Ashleigh Turows, B.S., D.D.S.

Program Director – Anthony Neely, D.D.S., M.Dent.Sc., Ph.D.

Candidates for degrees to be granted up on completion of formal requirements.

CLASS OF 2023 AWARDS

DOCTOR OF DENTAL SURGERY

Alin Alias, B.S.

Academy of General Dentistry Award
 Class Representative, Dental Class of 2023
 Pediatric Award of Excellence Recognition

Samer Al-Ismaeel, B.S.

Pediatric Award of Excellence Recognition

Carly Bachus, B.Sc.

School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition
 Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society

Ana Luz Barajas-Preciado, B.S.

Falcon Family Award
 F.B. Vedder Society Nominee

Laila Basha, B.S.

Detroit Mercy Dental Senior Oral Surgery Award

Rita Joseph Benjamin, B.S.

Dental-School of Dentistry Outstanding Academic Achievement Award
 Pierre Fauchard Academy Senior Student Award
 American Academy of Oral Medicine Award
 American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Dental Student Award
 Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society

Leila Susan Burbar, B.S.

American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry Award

Kouder I. Dakhallah, B.S.

School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

Oliver M. Daniel, B.A.

International College of Dentists Student Humanitarian Award

Kexin Ding, B.A.

School of Dentistry-Excellence in Research Award
 School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

Nupur P. Dixit, B.S.

Student Ambassador
 School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

Adam Mustapha Elturk, B.S.

School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

Yasmina Farah, B.S.

The American Academy of Orofacial Pain Outstanding Senior Award
 School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

Michael M. Fouad Meshriky, B.S.

School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

Brooke A. Fox, B.S.

Academy of General Dentistry Award
 Pediatric Award of Excellence Recognition

CLASS OF 2023 AWARDS

DOCTOR OF DENTAL SURGERY

Michael Christian Fuhst, B.S.

F.B. Vedder Society Nominee
Pediatric Award of Excellence Recognition

Nicholas J. Goza, B.S.

Pediatric Award of Excellence Recognition

Sondos Amin Hajar, B.S.

Academy of Osseointegration Outstanding Student Implant Dentistry Award

Fadia Sabah Hanna, B.S.

Quintessence Award for Clinical Achievement in Periodontics
School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

Emmaline Constance Hrebec, B.S.

F.B. Vedder Society Nominee
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society
School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

Kellie Marilynn Hurst, B.S.

Russell W. Buntin Periodontal Society Award
F.B. Vedder Society Nominee
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society

Mary F. Jaddou, B.S.

American Association of Orthodontics Award
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society
School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

Taylor A. Johnson, B.S.

Dr. Jeanne Craig Sinkford Student Servant Leadership Award
Academy of Dentistry International Student Servant Leadership Award
Student Government Association President
Student Ambassador

Abigail Nicole Johnstone, B.S.

American Association of Public Health Dentistry Senior Dental Student Recognition Award
School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

Nicole Junn, B.S.

Quintessence Award for Research Achievement
School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

Manasa Lakshmi Kanneganti, B.S.

Treasurer, Dental Class of 2023

Doohyun Kim, B.S.

International Congress of Oral Implantology Pre-Doctoral Achievement Award

Thi Trong Le, B.S.

School of Dentistry Research Recognition

CLASS OF 2023 AWARDS

DOCTOR OF DENTAL SURGERY

Jacob Dante Lupini, B.S.

School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

Mollie Mahoney, B.S., M.S.

School of Dentistry Pediatric Dentistry Clinical Excellence Award

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society

Bhakti A. Malavia, B.S.

Pediatric Award of Excellence Recognition

Nicole Markic, B.Sc.

American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Achievement Award

Kyle Nicholas Mayer, B.S.

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society

Emily Lisseth Mejia, B.S.

Secretary, Dental Class of 2023

Admissions Ambassador

Iveth M. Melgarejo, B.S.

Student Ambassador

School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

Daniel Middleton, B.S., D.D.S.

American Association of Endodontics Awards

Yekta Mohammadzadeh, B.S.

School of Dentistry-Biomedical Sciences Award

Medea Mohseni, B.S.

American Dental Society of Anesthesiology Horace Wells Senior Award

Thomas Joseph Mullally, B.A.

Pediatric Award of Excellence Recognition

Tri Minh Nguyen, B.A.

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society

Student Ambassador

Mohammed Obeid, B.S.

American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Suregons-Dental Student Award

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society

Jessica YunHye Oh, B.S.

School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

Olga Christine Panagos, B.S.

Class Vice President, Dental Class of 2023

School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

Jay Bhagavandas Patel, B.S.

Brian D. Stone Memorial Award

CLASS OF 2023 AWARDS

DOCTOR OF DENTAL SURGERY

Alice Piatkowski, B.S.

American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons-Dental Implant Student Award

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Predoctoral Student Award

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society

Nicole M. Piening, B.S.

School of Dentistry Pediatric Award of Excellence

Zoha Rehman, B.S.

School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

Diana Saffarini, B.S.

Class Representative, Dental Class of 2023

School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

Anelis Sanchez-Mederos, B.S.

Student Ambassador

Sasha Sarin, B.S.

School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

Ila Sayed, B.S.

School of Dentistry-Community Service Award

School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

Andrew Schweitzer, B.S.

School of Dentistry Pediatric Award of Excellence

Amber Nicole Sharpley, B.S.

Student Ambassador

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society

Hayden William Sutton, B.S.

American College of Prosthodontics Graduate Achievement Award

International College of Dentists Student Leadership Award

President, Dental Class of 2023

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society

F.B. Vedder Society Awardee

School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

Madison C. Thomas, B.S.

Academy of Operative Award

Faith Elizabeth Volpe, B.S.

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society

Christian A. Watson, B.S.

Student Ambassador

Madelyn West, B.S.

Quitessence Award for Clinical Achievement in Restorative Dentistry

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society

Nancy Xiaonan Xu, B.H.Sc.

American Academy of Periodontology Dental Student Achievement Award

Michelle M. Zuleta, B.S.

Whip Mix Hanau Best of the Best Prosthodontic Award

CLASS OF 2023 AWARDS

DENTAL HYGIENE

Nour Almachy

Loa Petri Clinical Dental Hygiene Award

Lexine Marie Gabrail

Treasurer, Dental Hygiene Class of 2023

Maja Gjurchinoska

Sigma Phi Alpha Dental Hygiene Honor Society

Morgan E. Kyle, B.S.

School Dentistry Dental Hygiene Periodontology Achievement Award

Morgan Lee LaForest

Colgate Student Total Achievement Award

Student Government Association Dental Hygiene Representative

Sidnee Morgan Mattison, B.S.

East Shore District Dental Hygienists' Society Award

President, Dental Hygiene Class of 2023

Zainab Nabil Saad

Hu-Friedy Golden Scaler Award

Leah T. Stevens

University of Detroit Mercy Dental Hygiene Alumni Award

Youssef M. Takkush

Secretary, Dental Hygiene Class of 2023

Cody E. Wall

Falcon Family Award

Ciara Alexandria Young, B.A., B.S.

Future Healthcare Hygienist Scholarship

Rachel Marilyn Zager

School of Dentistry - Dental Hygiene Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

School of Dentistry - Dental Hygiene Biomedical Sciences Award

Sigma Phi Alpha Dental Hygiene Honor Society

Vice-President, Dental Hygiene Class of 2023

ACADEMIC REGALIA

Architecture	Blue Velvet	Law	Purple
Arts and Letters	White	Library Science	Lemon
Business Administration	Drab	Medicine	Green
Dentistry	Lilac	Music	Pink
Economics	Copper	Nursing	Apricot
Education	Light Blue	Pharmacy	Copper
Engineering	Orange	Philosophy	Blue
Fine Arts	Brown	Physical Education	Sage Green
Journalism	Crimson	Public Administration	Brown

The custom of wearing academic gowns, caps and hoods dates back to the 12th century and likely had its inception in France, where the wearing of the cap and gown marked the formal admission of the “Licentiate” to the body of masters. The cold buildings of medieval times, in which the masters were obliged to teach, required caps and hoods which naturally were patterned after the prevailing dress of the times. Since a large number of scholars were clerics, the robes resembled the monks’ dress. The hoods were fashioned after the monks’ cowl and were attached to the gown so that they might be drawn over the head. Later, when the hood was displaced by the skull cap as a head covering, it was made separately from the gown. The skull cap evolved into a pointed cap which is evidenced today in the mortar board cap with its tassel.

Considering the development described above, it is natural that there would be a great variety of styles and usage. In order to maintain uniformity, an *Intercollegiate Code for Academic Costumes* has been adopted by most leading institutions of learning. As a result, the gowns and hoods of this country are a badge of learning, symbolic of the degree attained.

This code calls for three types of gowns: the Bachelor’s, Master’s and Doctor’s. The Bachelor’s gown is made with an open or closed front with long pointed sleeves. The Master’s gown is an open front garment with extremely long closed sleeves - the arms protrude through a slit at the elbow. The ends of the sleeves are square and are further characterized by an arc of a circle appearing near the bottom. The Doctor’s gown is also an open front garment, with round bell-shaped sleeves along the length of the arm. There are wide, black velvet panels facing down the front with three velvet bars on each sleeve, which may portray the color that represents the degree earned or may remain black.

It is in the design of the hood that is distinctly American. Simple, yet beautiful, each degree, Bachelor’s, Master’s and Doctor’s, is represented by a distinct shape or form. The Bachelor’s hood is the smallest of the three - the velvet edging is narrower and less exposed. The Master’s hood is the same length as the Doctor’s - the velvet edging is somewhat wider than the Bachelor’s and more of the lining can be seen. The Doctor’s hood is easily recognized by the width of the velvet edging, its wide panels and the full exposure of the lining. The lining of the hood indicates the colors of the institute conferring the degree and the color of the velvet trimmings represents the degree.

The black gowns, trimmed with multi-colored velvet and worn by some members of the Dental Faculty, indicate membership in the American College of Dentists or the International College of Dentists.

ACADEMIC PROCESSION & MACE

The order of the Academic Procession (see page 2) is governed by academic protocol. College and School order of march is determined by their founding. Leading the Procession is the Grand Marshal. The Grand Marshal is the Master/Mistress of Ceremonies and Mace-bearer.

The mace is ceremonial and dates back to sixteenth century England where it was used as a formidable weapon to protect high ranking civil, educational and religious officials, and royalty. Today the mace has become a symbol of authority and is carried by a distinguished member of the academic community.

Attached to the silver crown of the mace is a double-sided University crest. Circumscribed around the consolidated institutions' crests is the wording, "University of Detroit Mercy." The left side of the inner circle portrays two wolves at a pot, symbolizing the generosity of the Loyola family (Ignatius Loyola was the founder of the Society of Jesus). After all the family and the workers were fed, even the wild animals had the pot to lick.

The motto of the Jesuits, "Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam" (For the Greater Glory of God), is located above the wolves and the pot. The date 1877 refers to the founding of University of Detroit by the Jesuits.

On the inner circle, right side, is a silver cross which is the symbol of the Religious Sisters of Mercy, who founded Mercy College of Detroit in 1941. The three canettes are taken from the coat of arms of the Archdiocese of Detroit, symbolizing the Archdiocese and the City. The open book is the traditional symbol for a college. Upon the open pages is inscribed Mercy College's motto, "Maria, Sedes Sapientiae" (Mary, Seat of Wisdom).

The shaft of the mace is made of silver and ebony.

THANK YOU

We acknowledge the following people for their contribution to the 2023 commencement ceremony.

Bagpiper

Mr. Bruce Burt

Volunteer Ushers

Administrative Assistants
Staff

